

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 16-18 are canceled, and claim 19 is amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Evanisko in the August 17, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Claims 16-19 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16-18 are canceled, and thus the rejection of these claims is now moot.

By this Amendment, claim 19 is amended to remove the recitation "directly," and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. Claims 16 and 19

The Office Action rejects claims 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,779,482 to Fukumoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,776,270 to Kumamoto. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 is canceled, and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot.

Claim 19 would not have been rendered obvious by Fukumoto in view of Kumamoto. None of the applied references teach or suggest "the total number of the plurality of second regions being greater than the total number of the at least one first region,... wherein the forming the protrusion is performed more frequently than the printing the character on the surface of the molded member," as recited in claim 19.

That is, by defining at least one first region on at least part of the entire surface of the molded member and defining a plurality of second regions on at least part of the entire surface, wherein the total number of the plurality of the second regions are greater than the total number of the at least one first region, the forming of the protrusion is performed more frequently than printing the character on the surface of the molded member. Thus, it is possible to provide sufficiently-highly-raised protrusions on the curved surface. See e.g., page 24, lines 4-20. Nowhere does Fukumoto teach or suggest this feature.

However, the Office Action asserts that Fukumoto includes the first and second print regions as shown in the marked-up copy of Fig. 4(A) of Fukumoto attached to the March 13 Office Action. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based on improper hindsight reasoning. A reconstruction is proper "so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made and does not include knowledge gleaned only from applicant's disclosure." *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 1395, 170 USPQ 209, 212 (CCPA 1971); see, e.g., MPEP §2145(X)A. The Examiner is merely including knowledge from Applicants' disclosure to assert that Fukumoto discloses the total number of plurality of second regions being greater than the total number of the at least one first region. Nowhere does Fukumoto teach or suggest this feature in the specification.

Further, Kumamoto does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukumoto discussed above. Kumamoto is only cited by the Office Action for allegedly disclosing a molded member.

Thus, claim 19 is patentable over Fukumoto and Kumamoto. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. Claim 17

The Office Action rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukumoto in view of Kumamoto, and further in view of JP 08-324575 to Kanao and U.S. Patent No. 5,740,730 to Thompson, Sr.

Claim 17 is canceled, and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot.

C. Claim 18

The Office Action rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukumoto in view of Kumamoto, and further in view of Kanao. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

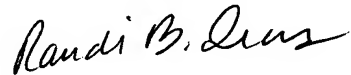
Claim 18 is canceled, and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: September 15, 2005

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